

Captain Charles E. Smith, Commaning Officer USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69)

Captain "Grunt" Smith earned a Bachelor of Science Degree and commission at the Virginia Military Institute. Following flight training and Naval Aviator designation, he reported to the VS 30 "Diamondcutters" deploying three times with Carrier Air Wing (CVW) Seventeen to the Mediterranean Sea and Indian Ocean aboard USS FORRESTAL (CV 59) and USS SARATOGA (CV 60).

In a follow-on Instructor Pilot tour, he was selected for the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School program. Captain Smith served at the Naval Air Test Center as Lead Test Pilot for numerous aircraft, tanker, carrier suitability and weapons programs. During his Test Pilot tour, he also

earned a Master of Science degree. Following flight test duties, Captain Smith reported to the VS 32 "Maulers" deploying with CVW-1 onboard USS AMERICA (CV 66) for OPERATION DESERT SHIELD/DESERT STORM and again to the North Atlantic for North Star '91. After his Department Head tour, he served at the Naval Air Systems Command in Washington, D.C., as a Cost of Effectiveness Analysis Officer assessing aviation procurement programs. Upon aviation command selection, Captain Smith reported to VS 29 as Executive Officer and deployed to the Arabian Gulf and Indian Ocean for Operations SOUTHERN WATCH and CONTINUE HOPE aboard USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (CVN 72). On 7 April 1994, he took command of the VS 29 "Dragonfires" and deployed his squadron for WESTPAC '95 and OPERATION SOUTHERN WATCH.

Captain Smith was next selected for the Nuclear Power Program and completed Surface Nuclear Propulsion training. He reported aboard USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73) as her Executive Officer throughout an Arabian Gulf deployment and Drydock Planned Incremental Availability (DPIA). After serving onboard CVN 73, he was assigned to U.S. JOINT FORCES COMMAND as a CAPSTONE Instructor and Deployable Team Chief serving Geographical and Joint Task Force Commanders in the European and Central Commands.

Following Deep Draft selection, Captain Smith took command of the helicopter carrier USS INCHON (MCS 12) on January 5, 2001, and deployed from the East Coast through the Panama Canal for a 29,000 nautical mile WESTPAC '01. Following that deployment, Captain Smith was selected to command the nuclear aircraft carrier, USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69).

Captain Smith's personal awards include the Legion of Merit, the Joint Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Meritorious Service Medal (two awards), the Strike Flight Air Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal (three awards including Combat "V") and the Navy Achievement Medal (two awards). He has accumulated over 4,500 flight hours and 596 carrier arrestments while piloting 32 different fixed and rotary wing aircraft.